

Realising human rights in the global energy transition

Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh





Introduction

Energy is central to sustainable development and human rights for billions, but links between human rights, climate change, and energy remain underdeveloped

‘Human rights approach’ could accelerate progress towards universal access while addressing climate change and inequalities



A Human Rights Approach to Energy



Discursive element: Using human rights discourse to provide a normative frame for policy and action on energy



Mainstreaming element: Incorporating human rights norms into energy policy and practice at all levels



Litigation element: Using legal claims to ensure accountability for energy-related human rights issues.

Framing Energy as a Human Rights Issue

Human rights provide a basis for universal energy access as a prerequisite for human dignity and equality

A human rights approach promotes integrated action on energy access, sustainability, and equality

Mainstreaming Human Rights in Energy Practice

01

Enhancing capacity for data collection and disaggregation to understand energy-related inequalities

02

Ensuring participation of marginalized groups in energy decision-making

03

Incorporating human rights safeguards into energy laws and policies.

Mainstreaming Human Rights at the Multilateral Level

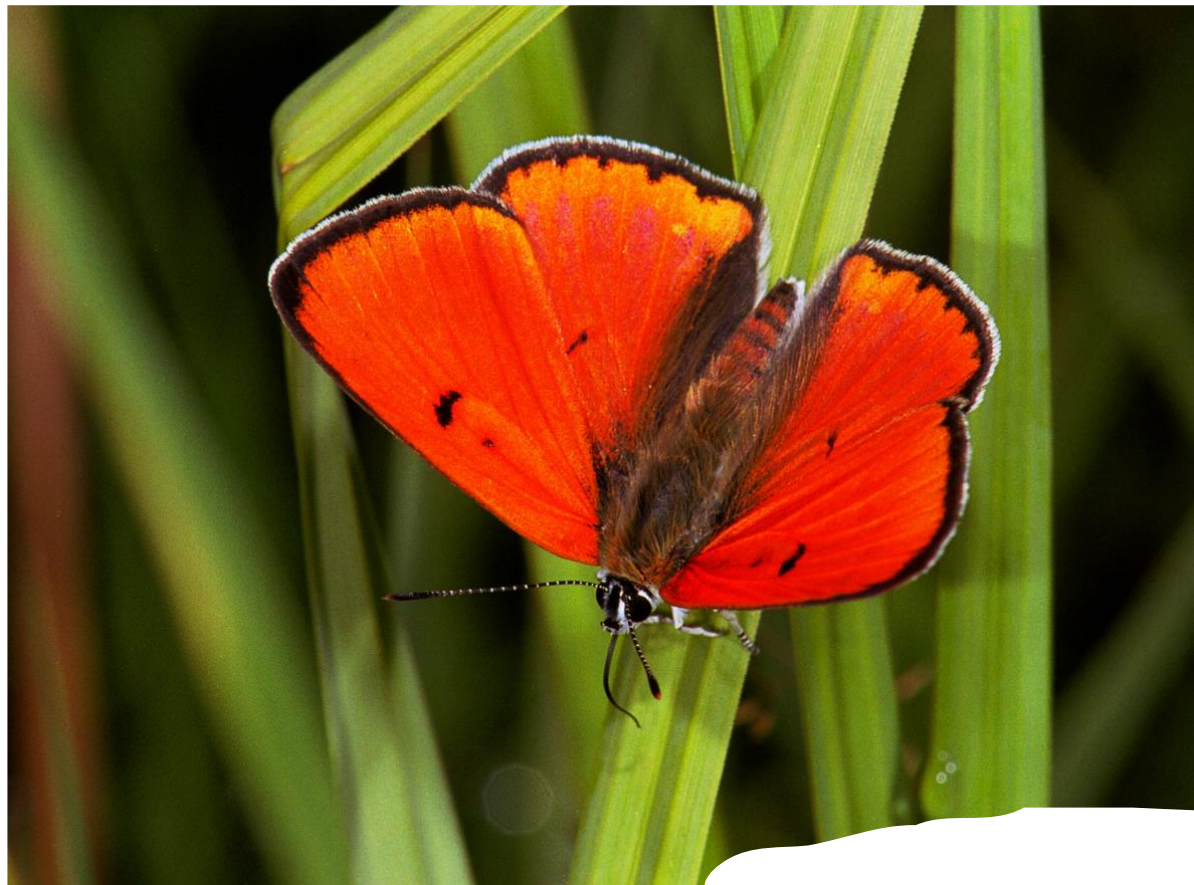


Promoting synergies between human rights, SDGs, and climate change reporting and review processes



Integrating human rights and climate commitments into Nationally Determined Contributions.

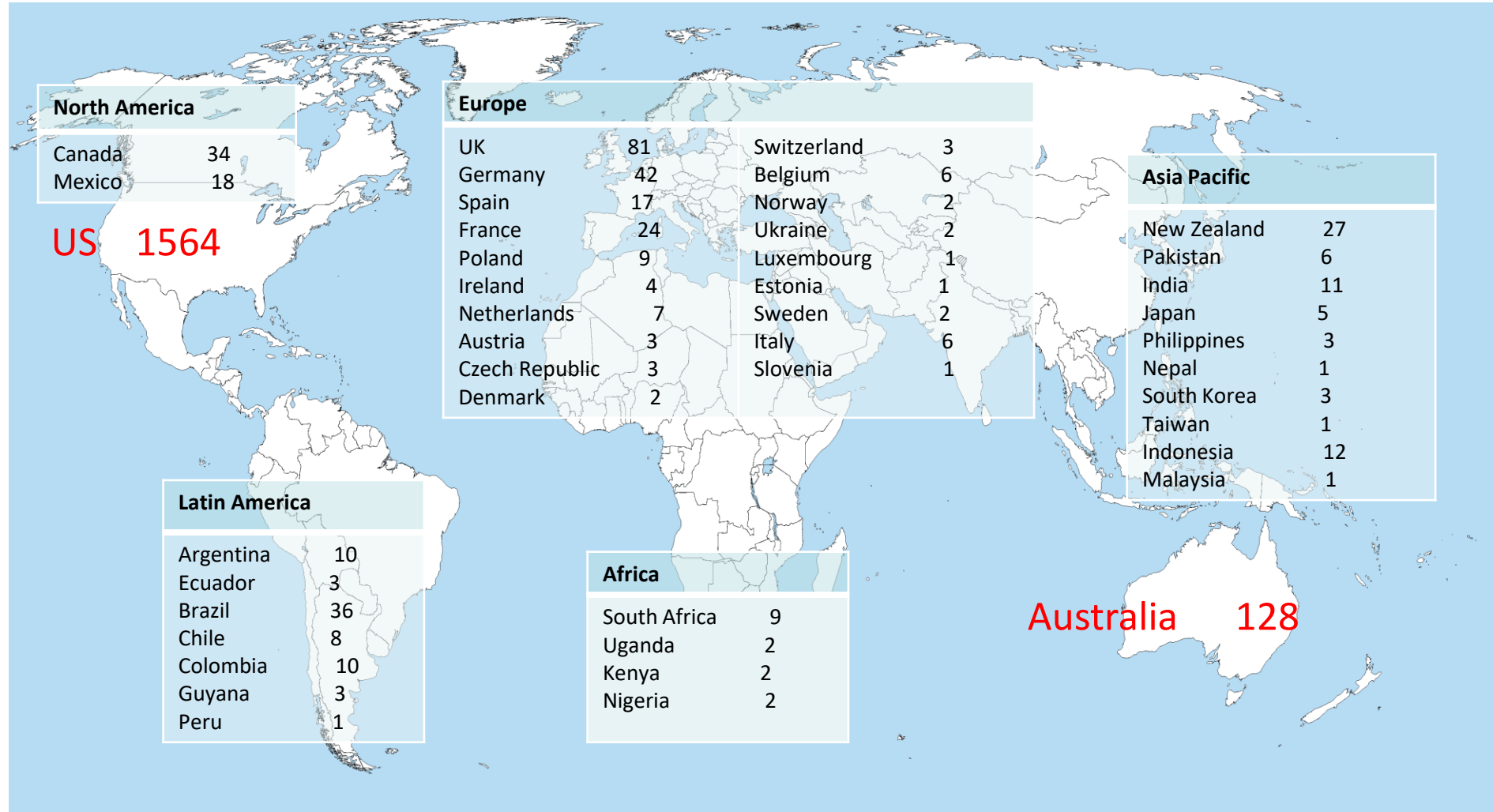
Litigation for Energy Justice



Invoking human rights against governments and companies for climate inaction

Potential to promote systemic change, e.g. the Shell case linking SDGs and Paris Agreement

World map of climate cases



‘Rights turn’ in climate litigation





Advisory opinions of the International Court of the Justice (the ‘World Court’) are **general statements by the main UN judicial body** regarding what international law requires on a certain issue, and they command **great legal and symbolic authority..**



Conclusion

1

Human rights provide a normative basis and accountability mechanisms to address shortcomings of SDG7

2

A human rights approach promotes an integrated, equitable transition aligned with climate imperatives



Thank you!